

COLLINS & AIKMAN FLOORCOVERINGS  
DALTON, GEORGIA

**Collins & Aikman Floorcoverings of Dalton, Georgia** manufactures high-performance commercial carpet. The company uses closed-loop recycling for carpeting to produce 100% recycled-content backing for new floor coverings. Customers can recycle their used carpet through the company's take back program. Collins & Aikman also recycles post-industrial waste for production of recycled-content floorcoverings. During the past 6 years, the company also reduced emissions, waste, and water and energy use while increasing production by 91%.

**AT A GLANCE**

Industry Sector:	Textiles
Business:	Manufactures commercial carpet
Facility Employees:	500-1,000
Accomplishments:	Reduced solid waste Reduced water use
2003 Commitments:	Reduce solid waste Reduce water use Reduce energy use Reduce CO2 emissions
Address:	311 Smith Industrial Blvd. Dalton, GA 30722

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

*Past Accomplishments*

Collins & Aikman Floorcoverings has demonstrated its commitment to environmental performance in the areas of total company waste and water usage reduction. Since 1998, the facility has:

- **Reduced solid waste** by 40% per square yard of carpeting produced through recycling all process waste and implementing other recycling options for challenging manufacturing waste streams.
- **Reduced water use** by 29% through using closed-loop systems to recycle process water, implementing process modifications, purchasing equipment with water saving features, and decreasing the use of traditionally dyed yarns. In 1999, an estimated 1 million gallons of water were saved due to a process change.

*Future Commitments*

Collins & Aikman Floorcoverings also committed to continued environmental improvement through reductions in total company waste, water usage, energy and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. By 2003, the facility will:

- **Reduce solid waste** by 10% per square yard through source reduction and recycling.
- **Reduce water use** by 10% per square yard through water conservation, water saving equipment, and process modifications.
- **Reduce energy use** by 10% per square yard through increasing production efficiencies, continuing process modifications, and evaluating new technologies and alternate energy sources.
- **Reduce emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>** by 10% per square yard through energy usage reductions and evaluating new technologies and alternate energy sources.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Dalton facility responds to community concerns immediately by sharing all pertinent information and making any modifications necessary to address the community's concern. The facility is considering organizing a community advisory panel to increase and promote community communications and involvement. Collins & Aikman Floorcoverings publishes articles in local newspapers to inform the community of its recycling and environmental achievements. Representatives of the Dalton facility are active with the Chattanooga Institute Civic Forum, Keep Dalton/Whitfield Beautiful, Dalton Chamber of Commerce, and local schools.